

CHAPTER 25**RIGHTS OF MARRIED PERSONS****§801. Holding and disposing of property**

A married person, widow or widower of any age may own in the person's own right real and personal estate acquired by descent, gift or purchase. [PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. B, §2 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. E, §2 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1995, c. 694, §B2 (NEW). PL 1995, c. 694, §E2 (AFF).

§802. Spouse's separate property

A person having property is not deprived of any part of that property by marriage, and a person acquires no right to any property of that person's spouse. A married person may release to that person's spouse the right to control that person's property or any part of it and to dispose of the income of the property for their mutual benefit, and may in writing revoke that right of control or disposal. [PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. B, §2 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. E, §2 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1995, c. 694, §B2 (NEW). PL 1995, c. 694, §E2 (AFF).

§803. Spouse's earnings

A married person may receive the wages of that person's personal labor not performed for that person's own family, maintain an action for those wages in that person's own name and hold them in that person's own right against that person's spouse or any other person. [PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. B, §2 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. E, §2 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1995, c. 694, §B2 (NEW). PL 1995, c. 694, §E2 (AFF).

§804. No liability for spouse's debts or torts; property subject to execution; partnerships

1. Liability for debts or torts. A married person is not liable for the debts of that person's spouse contracted before marriage nor for those contracted in the spouse's own name for any lawful purpose. A married person is not liable for that person's spouse's torts in which that person takes no part. [PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. B, §2 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. E, §2 (AFF).]

2. Partnerships. This section may not be construed to mean that a person is not liable for the debts, contracted in the name of the partnership, of a partnership between the person and the person's spouse or among the person, the spouse and 3rd persons. This section may not be construed to prohibit or limit the formation of a partnership between a husband and a wife or among a husband, wife and 3rd persons.

[PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. B, §2 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. E, §2 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1995, c. 694, §B2 (NEW). PL 1995, c. 694, §E2 (AFF).

§805. Actions by or against spouse; arrest

A married person may prosecute and defend civil actions, either of tort or contract, in that person's own name without the joinder of that person's spouse, for the preservation and protection of that person's property and personal rights or for the redress of that person's injuries, as if unmarried, or may

prosecute these actions jointly with that person's spouse. The person's spouse may not settle or discharge any of these actions or causes of action without the written consent of the person. Neither of them can be arrested on a writ of execution arising out of these actions or causes of action, nor may the spouse alone maintain an action respecting the person's property. [PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. B, §2 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. E, §2 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1995, c. 694, §B2 (NEW). PL 1995, c. 694, §E2 (AFF).

§806. Proceedings between husband and wife

1. Civil action against spouse. A wife may bring a civil action against her husband for the recovery, conveyance, transfer, payment or delivery to her of any property, real or personal or both, exceeding \$100 in value, standing in his name, or to which he has legal title, or that is in his possession or under his control, that in equity and good conscience belongs to her and that he neglects or refuses to convey, transfer, pay over or deliver to her, and upon proper proof may maintain this action. A husband has the same right to bring and maintain a civil action against his wife for the same purposes, subject to the same limitations.

[PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. B, §2 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. E, §2 (AFF).]

2. Marriage not a bar; costs. Marriage is not a bar to the maintenance of a civil action by a wife against her husband or by a husband against his wife brought for the purposes in subsection 1. Costs may not be awarded against either party in these proceedings.

[PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. B, §2 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. E, §2 (AFF).]

3. Defrauding creditors; dismissal of action. If it satisfactorily appears to the court on hearing that the party bringing the action has conveyed or transferred any of that party's property, real or personal, to the other party to the action for the purpose of cheating, defrauding, hindering or delaying that party's creditors, the action must be dismissed.

[PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. B, §2 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. E, §2 (AFF).]

4. Appeal. An appeal from any final judgment under this section may be taken to the law court as in other civil actions.

[PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. B, §2 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. E, §2 (AFF).]

5. No survival of rights. There is no survival of the right to institute proceedings under this section, and if a wife or husband dies after the commencement of proceedings under this section and before the final determination and disposition of the proceedings, these proceedings must abate.

[PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. B, §2 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. E, §2 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1995, c. 694, §B2 (NEW). PL 1995, c. 694, §E2 (AFF).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the Second Regular Session of the 131st Maine Legislature and is current through January 1, 2025. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.